

Utility Patent Application of  
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For  
Bedpan Apparatus

**BACKGROUND - FIELD OF INVENTION:**

This invention generally relates to bed pans. More specifically, this invention relates a novel slipper style bed pan design that dramatically reduces the pain and discomfort involved in its use.

**PRIOR ART:**

Design Patents **D246055 Mills** 1977, **D246382 Parker, III** 1977, **D253304 Nakao** 1979, **D270018 Knight** 1983, & **D450840 Edmonds** 2001 all show different shapes and contours for the upper surface of a bed pan. Only **Nakao** is of the slipper style and its narrow top surface rails can cause significant discomfort when repeatedly forced against sensitive skin as required for a long term bedridden patients or forced against a patient who may have suffered from a pelvic or back injury. Also, its pistol grip handle does not provide sufficient stability to prevent accidental spills.

**3464066 Marks** 1969 discloses a conventionally shaped bedpan but its sidewalls are inflatable so it can be stored flat and slid under the patient flat and inflated to elevate the patient for use. It doesn't mention getting out from under the patient. **3605128 Oden** 1971 takes the inflatable ring pan one step further having it mounted on a flat sheet that after use is lifted up around the pan making it into a sack which is then wholly disposable, eliminating costly cleaning and sterilization and is relatively economical to produce. **5079788 Raupp** 1992 attempts to minimize the pain for users by its low lying configuration and providing contoured, padded surfaces that match the body contours of the user. It, however still requires lifting or rolling a patient on to it with the potential pain and strain. **5136733 Church** 1992 add a seat of a flexible material wide enough to support the full width of the buttocks to more evenly distribute the user's weight as

opposed to the relatively narrow top surface for the conventional pan but it still requires lifting or rolling the patient into position on top of the device for use. 6532604 Moser 2003 seems more focused on improving the collecting function and the ease of cleaning than on the comfort of the user.

#### **SUMMARY:**

An object of this invention is to provide a bedpan for use by bedridden patients dramatically reducing the pain and discomfort found in the use of prior art designs. Patients with spinal and pelvic injuries find it very painful if not impossible to be rolled on their side, a hard walled pan placed against their backside and then rolled back onto the bedpan. In accordance with the present invention, a bed pan apparatus is comprised of a slipper style bedpan, flat on the bottom, with a top surface sloping downward toward the patient. The top surface has an opening for receiving the bodily wastes from the patient. The top surface is significantly wider and longer than the bedpan underneath and is formed from a relatively flexible material. This additional width and length is the key to eliminating the pain of use as these wings deflect toward the bed surface as the apparatus is slid into functioning position without, rolling, pinching or abrading the sensitive local skin areas and with minimized lifting of the patients lower back required

#### **DRAWINGS:**

In order that the invention may be more fully understood it will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a top view of a bedpan apparatus.

FIG. 2 is a sectional front view of a bedpan apparatus.

FIG. 3 is a front view of a bedpan apparatus with its support wings flexed.

FIG. 4 is a left side view of a bedpan apparatus.

FIG. 5 is a right side view of a bedpan apparatus.

FIG. 6 is a left side view of a bedpan apparatus with its support wings flexed.

## REFERENCE NUMERALS:

10 – Bedpan Apparatus	12 – top surface
14 – thumb grip	16 - finger groove
18 – leading edge	20 – bottom surface
22 – front wing	24 – side wing
26 - overhang	28 – side wall
30 – pan	32 – front wall
34 – back wall	36 – opening
38 – chamfer	

## DESCRIPTION:

In order that the invention may be more fully understood, it will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5 illustrate a bed pan apparatus in its not-in-use state. Figures 3 and 6 illustrate the bed pan apparatus with its top surface flexed down to the bed surface, shown in phantom lines, as it would appear when pressed against the patient's buttocks ready for use.

Turning to Figure 1, a top view of bedpan apparatus 10 shows top surface 12, which is a rectangular sheet approximately 18 in. wide by x 15 in. long x 3/32 in. thick, preferably of an engineering thermoplastic material suitable for repeated sterilizations. It also could be fabricated from metal and fastened to pan 30 below at sidewall 28. Top surface 12 slopes downward toward leading edge 18 as the depth of pan 30 is approximately 2 inches at its front wall 32 and approximately 5 inches at back wall 34. Top surface 12 includes opening 36 to receive the bodily waste from a bedridden patient. Figure 1 also illustrates details for handling bedpan apparatus 10 including thumb grip 14 notched into top surface 12 at the top of back wall 34 and the four finger grooves 16 indented into bottom surface 20 starting at the bottom of back wall 34.

Figure 2 is a sectional front view of bedpan apparatus 10. This section view illustrates top surface 12 with its overhang 26 extending out over pan 30 allowing the working depth for liquid retention to be greater than the shallow end of pan 30 and also providing a splash shield. Figure 2 also shows opening 36 for receiving the bodily wastes and chamfer 38 blending back wall 34 to top surface 12 with no sharp corners to scrape

on patient's skin. It also shows bottom surface 20 of pan 30 which sets flat on the bed (not shown) or on a table prior to waste disposal. Figure 2 also shows four finger grip grooves 16 indented into the bottom of bottom surface 20 and the opposing thumb grip groove 14 in the back center of top surface 12 and back wall 34. These grooves make handling of bed pan apparatus 10 easy to manage with one hand allowing the caretaker the other hand free to assist in raising the bedridden patient slightly while working bedpan apparatus 10 into position for use.

Figure 3 is a front view of a bedpan apparatus with its support wings 22 and 24 flexed. In this view, leading edge 18 is forced down against the bed surface, shown in phantom lines, under bedpan apparatus 10 by contact with the patient's buttocks and forward pressure by the caretaker. This flexing by leading edge 18 combined with large corner radii on top surface 12 allow the insertion of bedpan apparatus 10 into functional location with a dramatic reduction in patient discomfort, especially those with extended stays or back or pelvic injuries.

Figure 4 is a left side view of bedpan apparatus 10. This view shows the sloping attitude of top surface 12 and its waste receiving opening 36 that has chamfer 38 blending top surface 12 into side walls 28 and back wall 34 leaving no sharp edges to scrape patient's skin.

Figure 5 is a right side view of a bedpan apparatus that illustrates thumb grip 14 dipping from top surface 12 into the top center of back wall 34 and four finger grooves 16 indenting into bottom surface 20 at the bottom of back wall 34. Figure 5 also shows

Figure 6 is a left side view of a bedpan apparatus with its support wings flexed illustrating the shape of bedpan apparatus 10 after it has been positioned for use. In this view, leading edge 18 has been deflected down to the bed surface, shown in phantom lines, by movement towards patient's buttocks which causes front wing 22 to bow downward from the top of front wall 32. Side wings 24 also deflect downward as the weight of the patient's legs rest on top surface 12.

The preceding descriptions are for illustrative purposes and are not intended to limit the scope of this invention. The scope of the invention should be determined by the appended claims rather than by the specific examples given.